

REMARKS

Applicant respectfully requests entry of the amendments and remarks submitted herein. Claims 11-14 have been canceled without prejudice to continued prosecution. In addition, Applicant thanks the Examiner for the suggestions regarding the organization of the specification, but respectfully requests that the Examiner consider the above-indicated National Phase application as filed.

Claims 1-5, 7-10, 24 and 25 are currently pending, and have been indicated as being allowable by the Examiner. Reconsideration of the pending application is respectfully requested.

The 35 U.S.C. §102 Rejections

Claims 11, 12 and 14 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Furie et al. (U.S. Patent No. 4,769,320).

Without acquiescing to the Examiner's rejection and to expedite prosecution of the allowed claims, Applicant has canceled claims 11, 12 and 14 without prejudice to continued prosecution. Therefore, Applicant respectfully submits that the rejection of claims 11, 12 and 14 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) is moot.

The 35 U.S.C. §103 Rejections

Claim 13 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Furie et al in view of Akhavan-Tafti et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,843,666).

Without acquiescing to the Examiner's rejection and to expedite prosecution of the allowed claims, Applicant has canceled claim 13 without prejudice to continued prosecution. Therefore, Applicant respectfully submits that the rejection of claim 13 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) is moot.

CONCLUSION

Applicant believes that all outstanding issues have been addressed by this Response, and respectfully requests allowance of claims 1-5, 7-10, 24 and 25. In the interest of avoiding

Applicant : Wolf Bertling
Serial No. : 10/049,574
Filed : July 16, 2002
Page : 5 of 5

Attorney's Docket No.: 10848-018001 / 412023GA-go

abandonment should any outstanding issues remain, Applicant herewith encloses a Notice of Appeal.

Please apply the fees required for the enclosed Petition for Three-Month Extension of Time, Notice of Appeal, and any other charges or credits to Deposit Account No. 06-1050.

Respectfully submitted,

/July 23, 2007/

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